

IN HONOR OF H.E. AMBASSADOR
SAMEH SHOUKRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of H.E. Ambassador Sameh Shoukry, who is ending his tenure as the Arab Republic of Egypt's Ambassador to the United States of America.

Born on October 20, 1952 in Cairo, Egypt, Ambassador Shoukry is a second generation diplomat. He graduated from Ein Shams University in 1975 with a law degree and specializes in disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Just a year later, in 1976, Ambassador Shoukry joined the Egyptian Diplomatic Corps. Throughout his more than 30-year career, he has served in the Egyptian Embassies in London, Buenos Aires and the Permanent Mission of Egypt in New York.

Prior to being appointed Egypt's Ambassador to the United States in September, 2008, Ambassador Shoukry served as Egypt's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Egypt's Ambassador to Austria and as Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna. He has also served as the Director of the Minister of Foreign Affairs cabinet and led the department of the United States and Canada in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring H.E. Ambassador Sameh Shoukry, the Arab Republic of Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, as we bid him farewell.

RECOGNITION OF GENERAL (RET.)
BRUCE CARLSON, DIRECTOR OF
THE NATIONAL RECONNAIS-
SANCE OFFICE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize General (ret.) Bruce Carlson, who will step down as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office in July 2012 after three years of exemplary leadership.

General Carlson leaves a legacy of remarkable accomplishments with the National Reconnaissance Office including, the most aggressive launch campaign in a quarter of a century, all major systems acquisition programs operating at or below budget, a corporate process for making critical budget and space architecture decisions, and a significantly more healthy space reconnaissance constellation. General Carlson's dedicated leadership; integrity and hard work have positioned the National Reconnaissance Office for continued success that will have an enduring impact on our national security.

Prior to his time at the National Reconnaissance Office, General Carlson had a distinguished career spanning over 37 years with the U.S. Air Force. He began his military career as a commissioned officer in 1971 after graduating with distinction from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He is a com-

mand pilot with more than 3,700 flying hours in ten different aircraft, and saw combat as a forward air controller in the OV-10 Bronco. His various flying assignments included commanding the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing. His staff assignments included positions at Tactical Air Command, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and the offices of the Secretary of the Air Force and Secretary of Defense. He also served as the Director of Force Structure, Resources and Assessment on the Joint Staff; Commander, 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana; and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. Prior to his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, General Carlson served as Commander Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, which is responsible for development, testing, acquisition and sustainment of Air Force weapons systems. In that role, he had responsibility for 74,000 people and \$59 billion annually. He was promoted from Lieutenant General to General, pinning on his fourth star, on September 1, 2005.

He and his wife, Vicki, are very proud of their three children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Carlson has been a dedicated public servant, both in his service to his country in the U.S. military and as a senior executive at the National Reconnaissance Office. It is appropriate that we honor him today for his many contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF WIRE-NET

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize WIRE-Net, Cleveland's West Side Industrial Retention and Expansion Network, on the event of its annual meeting on Wednesday June 27, 2012.

WIRE-Net is a premier business-led organization, one of the few that focuses on the shared interests of manufacturing companies and urban communities. Its mission focuses on providing programs and services that strengthen manufacturing to create healthy communities and fuel economic growth.

WIRE-Net is a membership organization with 260 members. WIRE-Net was organized in 1988 to help manufacturing businesses—and jobs—stay in the community at a time when plant closings and downsizing were commonplace. Its staff went straight to the source, visiting almost 200 companies to better understand their challenges. WIRE-Net found that even though manufacturing companies, most with fewer than 100 employees, provided about 60 percent of the community's jobs, they had been overlooked and under-appreciated as community assets. WIRE-Net helped businesses get organized to win attention from federal, state and local government, and built relationships between business leaders and public officials. This effort helped get streets repaved, improved neighborhood safety, and led to new programs like Cleveland's Industrial Retention Initiative (CIRI) to support manufacturing. WIRE-Net also effectively blocked efforts to weaken industrial zoning on Cleveland's west side.

At this year's annual meeting, WIRE-Net recognizes its Executive Director, John Colm, for his 25 years of service to the community through the organization. WIRE-Net will also present its 2012 Mission Builder Award for plant expansion, new business growth, and/or creating jobs to: Electric Cord Sets; Miceli Dairy Products; Nestle Professional—L J Minor Division; Norlake Manufacturing; National Safety Apparel (NSA); and Philips Healthcare. This year's keynote speaker is Rob Atkinson, founder and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, who will discuss his work promoting U.S. based manufacturing and organizing the American Manufacturing Charter, which is supported by a broad coalition of labor, business, and economic policy leaders.

Mr. Speaker and respected colleagues, please join me in recognizing WIRE-Net, its long-time Executive Director John Colm, the winners of its 2012 Mission Builder Awards, and its influential speaker Rob Atkinson at WIRE-Net's Annual Meeting on June 27, 2012.

HONORING LEMUEL MCWILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Lemuel McWilliams. Mr. McWilliams is the third of five children born to Mrs. Eva McWilliams and the late Mr. Milton McWilliams of Ruleville, Mississippi. He was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Mr. McWilliams is a member of Merry Grove Missionary Baptist Church where he is a Sunday School Teacher, usher, and he is also active in other church auxiliaries.

From the time Lemuel entered school he always worked to excel. While at Ruleville Middle School he received numerous academic awards and graduated Salutatorian of his class. When Lemuel entered high school he continued to make education his priority, and has received numerous awards. He received the highest average in English III, Algebra II, Advance Placement History, and Creative Writing; and Lemuel was also awarded the Sunflower County Chamber of Commerce scholarship, and both the Principal's and the Superintendent's Scholar Awards.

As a member of the Leaders Envisioning a Future, he has also been involved in community service projects. Mr. McWilliams has been a mentor to fellow classmates by encouraging and helping them reach their educational goals. He wants to encourage younger students that they can accomplish any of their goals as long as they are committed to working hard to achieve it.

Mr. Williams received full scholarships to Jackson State University and Alcorn State University. In the fall he plans to attend Jackson State University where he will major in PreMed and Biology. After obtaining his degree, Lemuel wants to become a Pediatrician.

Mr. Lemuel McWilliams credits his parents for encouraging and supporting him to pursue his dreams of becoming a physician. His siblings Toni, Rahman, Ivan, and Ezra also encourage him to achieve his educational and career dreams, because they understand

Lemuel's passion for achieving his goals and helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Lemuel McWilliams as the 2012 Valedictorian at Ruleville Central High School Class.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND
PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cleveland Pride Festival, just one of countless celebrations taking place throughout the country during LGBT Pride Month. June marks the 43rd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, an event which is largely regarded as the catalyst for the modern day LGBT movement for equality.

There is a long history of systematic discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning community in every state in the union. Discrimination against someone based on any part of their identity means that anyone who is expressing themselves can be discriminated against. It means we are creating a system in which everyone has to be the same, and everyone has to express themselves the same way. Boring and wrong!

Fortunately, over the last several years, we are beginning to see responses to the growing demand for protection against discrimination in all forms, including workplace protections to prevent discrimination based on actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation.

As a strong proponent of LGBT rights, I have supported legislative initiatives that work toward codifying equality for members of the LGBT community. I strongly support legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Student Non-Discrimination Act, the Respect for Marriage Act and the Social Security Equality Act, initiatives that simply provide members of the LGBT community with the same privileges, protections and benefits as everyone else. As one of over 100 members to sign onto an amicus brief challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court, I applaud the recent decision by a federal appeals court to rule DOMA unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as people throughout the City of Cleveland and the country celebrate LGBT Pride Month. Let us work to ensure that all people are treated equally regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
SAFETY AND INNOVATION ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 5651, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee Act.

These critically important laws have improved patient access to important therapies and expedited the FDA's approval times while upholding the most rigorous standards for patient safety.

The Prescription Drug User Fee Act, PDUFA, was enacted in 1992 when drug review times were lagging and FDA simply couldn't keep up with the flood of new drug applications. Through user fees paid by applicants, the FDA gained resources it needed to hire and support more staff. The program has been successful at reducing review-time backlogs, and expediting safe and effective therapies to patients.

Along with faster drug approvals, Congress also recognized the need to study drugs in children. As the original author of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, BPCA, and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA, I'm proud of how successful these programs have been in treating children, resulting in new dosing information, new indications of use, new safety information, and new data on effectiveness. Before BPCA and PREA, the vast majority of drugs, more than 80 percent, used in children were used off-label, without data for their safety and efficacy. Today, that number has been reduced to 50 percent.

We know that children are not just small adults. They have unique medical needs and drugs react differently in their bodies. That's why in this year's reauthorization, it was important for us to look at areas in need of improvement. The bipartisan legislation gives FDA the tools it needs to ensure companies are thinking about pediatric populations as early as possible in the drug development process, and that they're able to enforce timelines that are routinely missed. The language encourages further study into untested age groups, like neonates, and clarifies any confusion over what some see as "loopholes" to allow companies to access the market exclusivity incentive without completing additional studies.

The legislation also ensures that companies routinely submit their pediatric plans earlier in the process by establishing a clear timeline and expectations.

I thank my House colleagues, Representatives MIKE ROGERS and EDWARD MARKEY who have worked very hard with me to improve these programs. I applaud the bipartisan and bicameral efforts of the House and Senate staffers who were able to combine the bills from both chambers to produce strong consensus language that has broad support from Members and stakeholders.

I have confidence that the bill we vote on today will improve BPCA and PREA to benefit children for generations to come, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN HONOR OF GREATER
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SHARES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Greater Cleveland Community Shares for their years of service and dedication to social justice.

Community Shares of Cleveland is a workplace giving federation with a focus on social

justice. It generates the operating funds for nonprofit organizations that work for positive community change such as providing education, promoting health care, and protecting women and children.

Founded in 1984, Community Shares is Cleveland's only such fund, and is the second largest in the country. Its philosophy is based on the power of participation and the individual's ability to shape change. Community Shares keeps its administrative costs low so that each contribution is responsive directly to the community's needs. It is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of representatives from member organizations and Community Directors. Greater Cleveland Community Shares is a member of Community Shares USA.

Greater Cleveland Community Shares has 41 area member organizations and more than 160 area employers include Community Shares in their annual workplace charitable campaigns.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Greater Cleveland Community Shares.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE PAUL A. RASMUSSEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated public service and esteemed legal career of Judge Paul A. Rasmussen upon his retirement from Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court in Escambia County. Judge Rasmussen spent his career serving the people of Northwest Florida, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Rasmussen first came to Florida in 1968 with the United States Navy to attend Aviation Officer Candidate School at Naval Air Station Pensacola. After graduating and completing his training at Naval Air Station Glynnco, in Georgia, he went on to serve four years on active duty with the Navy, completing successful tours of duty in Guam and Vietnam. After Judge Rasmussen was honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned to Florida where he attended the University of Florida College of Law.

Following his graduation from law school, Judge Rasmussen began his public service as a State's Attorney in Pensacola. He later entered private practice with then future Judge John T. Parnham, now retired from the bench in the First Judicial Circuit. Judge Rasmussen also served as legal counsel to the city of Gulf Breeze and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. In 1990, Judge Rasmussen was elected to Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court where he has served the people of Northwest Florida for the past 22 years. In 1998, he was recognized by the Children's Home Society of Florida as Child Advocate of the Year.

Judge Rasmussen's service to Northwest Florida does not stop at the bench. He is also actively involved throughout the community, most notably as a Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church of Pensacola and as a committeeman for Boy Scout Troop 10 in Pensacola.